

DIRECTORATE OF
INTELLIGENCE

Central Intelligence Bulletin

Top Secret

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21 June 1968

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Approved For Release 2003/01/29 : CIA-RDP79T00975A011500020002-0

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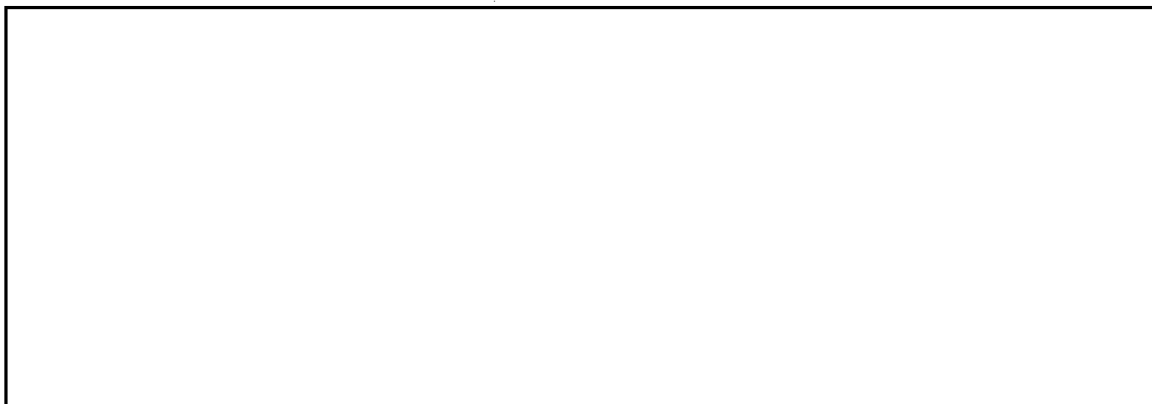
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Poland: [The party's factional struggle may be coming to a head.]

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[redacted]
tension is rising between the forces of party leader Gomulka and those of his hard-line challenger, Interior Minister Moczar, in spite of a fairly lengthy lull in overt political activity. At issue now is the timing of a forthcoming central committee plenum, the first since the student disturbances in March sparked the current leadership crisis. Moczar probably hopes that in the chaotic political atmosphere an early meeting would lead to high-level personnel shifts favorable to his group. Gomulka, however, appears intent on delaying the plenum in order to marshal his strength and to prevent such personnel changes.]

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[The plenum reportedly was scheduled for this month, but probably will be delayed until July or August, [redacted] Such a delay would mean that at present Gomulka is uncertain of the degree of his support among key members of the central committee. It also indicates, however, that despite the number of Moczar supporters in the regional party apparatus Gomulka retains enough strength to thwart his opponents at least for now. Other indications of Gomulka's recent reassertion of influence are the virtual cessation of the anti-Semitic purges since May, and a new willingness of Gomulka's supporters to exchange broadsides with Moczar's forces in the press.]

[The forthcoming plenum is slated to approve a new party program and set a date for the Fifth Party Congress. The timing of the congress, now reportedly scheduled for "the last quarter of the year," will depend in large part on the balance of factional forces resulting from the plenum. There

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are rumors in party circles that, as in past periods of factional strife preceding a party congress, Gomulka may seek to postpone the meeting until early next year. Preparations for the congress will include efforts by both Gomulka and Moczar to have as many of their supporters elected delegates as possible.1

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